

G1 engages the seat arrangement and the separation element is spaced from the first end of the support cage to a second position wherein the seal arrangement engages the seat arrangement of the separation element and is closer to the first end of the support cage.

Replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 14 with:

G8 In some embodiments, an end cap for capping an end of a separation pack may comprise a first segment including a first surface mountable to the end of the separation pack and a second segment including a sealing surface. The first and second segments are extendably connected such that the second segment is movable relative to the first segment.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Replace the indicated claim with:

1. (Five Times Amended) A separation element for separating one or more components from a fluid flowing through the separation element, the separation element comprising:

G9 (a) two or more hollow pleated pack sections, each pack section having a plurality of pleats, wherein the plurality of pleats includes roots, crowns, legs extending between the roots and the crowns, an inner periphery at the roots defining an upstream side, and an outer periphery at the crowns defining a downstream side and wherein each pleat has a height h greater than $(D-d)/2$ where D is the outer diameter at the outer periphery of the plurality of pleats and d is the inner diameter at the inner periphery of the plurality of pleats, a retainer disposed around the pleats, first and second ends, and a porous medium comprising a polymeric material or a glass fiber material;

(b) open joiner caps attached to ^{each} at least one ^{each other in} end of each of the two or more pack sections, adjacent open joiner caps being secured to ^{having} coaxially connect the pack sections and open joiner caps into a hollow separation arrangement ^{being} at least about 40 inches in length and having an interior diameter of at least of about 2 inches; and

(c) first and second end caps attached to the hollow separation arrangement, wherein one of the first and second end caps comprises a seal having an outside diameter greater than the largest outside diameter of the hollow separation arrangement, the end caps including a polymeric or elastomeric material.